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Agenda item 7

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME

Letter dated 16 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

I have the honour to request that the attached paper on national action plans in the field of human rights be submitted as an official document of the Preparatory Committee at its third session as a revision of document A/CONF.157/PC/39.*

(Signed) R.A. Walker
Permanent Representative

GE.92-14106/0966K (E)

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

Objective

1. To provide for a specific World Conference outcome which will promote, in a practical way, improved observance of human rights standards.

Means of achievement

2. The Conference would endorse the principle of this proposal. While precise modalities of the proposal should be a matter for further consideration, the Conference could invite each State to draw up a written plan of action identifying steps whereby that State would improve its observance of human rights. An option for subsequent action would be for States to inform the Commission on Human Rights of their plans.

Features of the action plan approach

3. Each State would have sole responsibility for its own action plan.

4. Within the framework of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the need to strengthen the human rights treaty system, action plans could assist States to intensify and extend their activities aimed at the promotion of human rights.

5. On the basis of the common commitment to human rights and with the objective of ensuring the effective enjoyment of all human rights, each State, in the preparation of its plan, would take its own circumstances as the starting point.

6. While each national plan must be in conformity with the obligations that State had undertaken, the approach would be non-prescriptive. The action plan approach would apply to all, for every country can improve its observance of human rights.

7. The action plans would enumerate objectives which could form the basis for proposals under the United Nations programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights. They would also give an indication to the international community as to the need for cooperative activities.

8. The action plan approach would link some of the State's human rights activities concretely with the World Conference process. It would be a specific, achievable activity which could be followed up after the Conference and which would enable the Conference to have lasting beneficial effects.

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